

## Chapter 12 People Age 50 and Older

Chapter 12 provides a profile of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among people age 50 and older in Massachusetts based on several different data sources. HIV and AIDS case data are presented to provide a demographic description of people age 50 and older living with HIV/AIDS and to describe the ways in which they were exposed to HIV. Behavioral data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) serve to highlight sexual risk-taking behavior among people in this age group. Lastly, HIV Counseling and Testing data are presented to provide information about people who were tested for HIV at state funded sites that are over age 50.

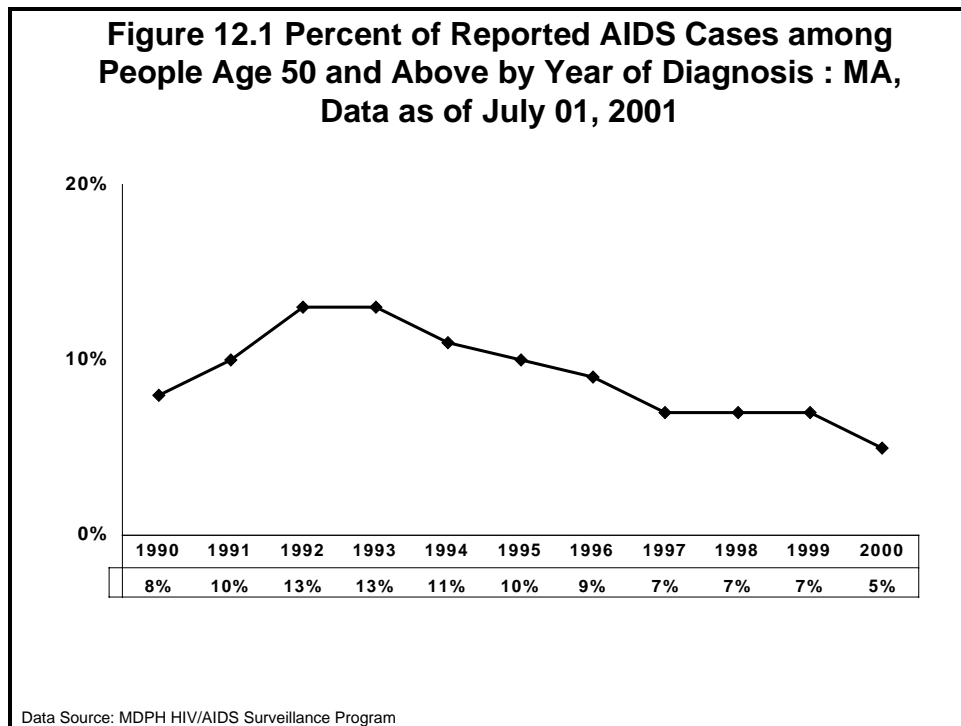
Currently there are 2,005 people living with HIV/AIDS who are age 50 and over in Massachusetts. The majority (79%) of people living with HIV/AIDS in this age group are men. Among these men, a primary exposure mode of male to male sex (MSM) was reported for the largest proportion of cases (44%), with the second largest proportion being attributed to injection drug use (IDU)(31%). For women age 50 and over living with HIV/AIDS, the largest proportion of individuals were reported with a primary exposure mode of heterosexual sex (37%) and IDU is the second largest proportion (29%). For men and women age 50 and older combined, MSM are the highest proportion at 35%.

Regarding race/ethnicity, just over 50% of people living with HIV/AIDS age 50 and older are White (non-Hispanic); Blacks (non-Hispanic) and Hispanics account for an additional 28% and 19%, respectively. However, the gender distribution across race/ethnicity is quite different. While the largest percentage of men living with HIV/AIDS age 50 and older is White (57%), the largest percentage of women is Black (43%).

### ***I. Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Prevalence – HIV and AIDS Case Data***

People age 50 and older living with HIV/AIDS as compared to all people living with HIV/AIDS in the state:

- People age 50 and older account for 12% of people living with HIV (non-AIDS), 18% of people living with AIDS, and 16% of people living with HIV/AIDS.
- 21% of people age 50 and older living with HIV/AIDS are women, compared to 28% of all people living with HIV/AIDS in the state as a whole.
- The racial/ethnic distribution of people age 50 and older living with HIV/AIDS is similar to that for the state as a whole. Among people age 50 and older there are slightly higher proportions of Whites and Blacks and a slightly lower proportion of Hispanics.
- The distribution across primary reported exposure mode of people age 50 and older living with HIV/AIDS is also similar to that for the state as a whole. Among people age 50 and older there is a slightly higher proportion of MSM and a slightly lower proportion of IDU.
- After peaking in 1993 at 13%, the proportion of AIDS cases diagnosed among people Age 50 and older declined to 5% of cases in 2000. (See figure 12.1)

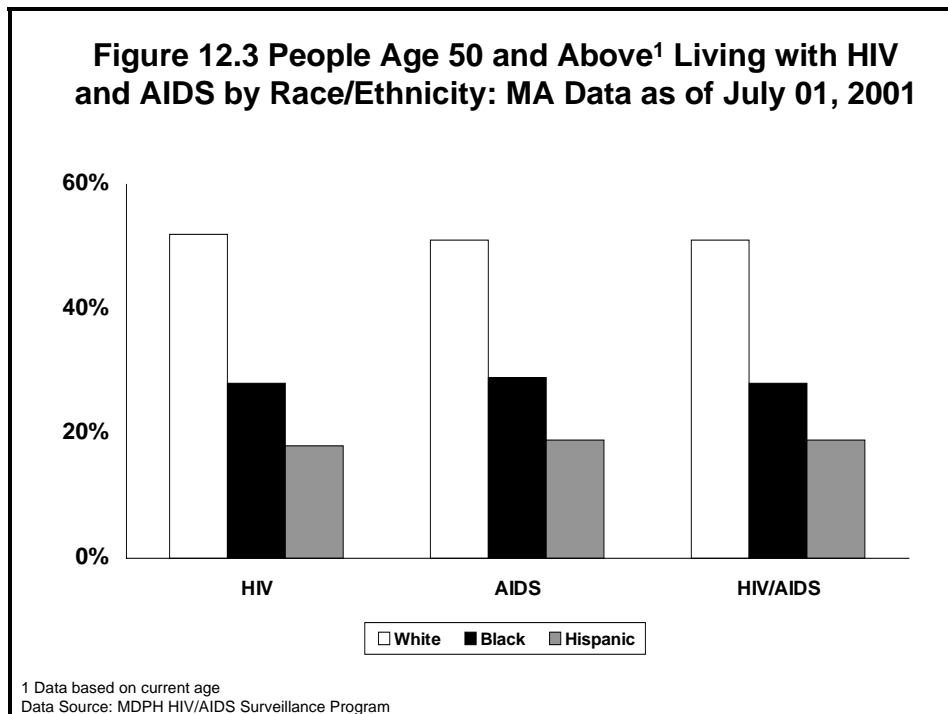
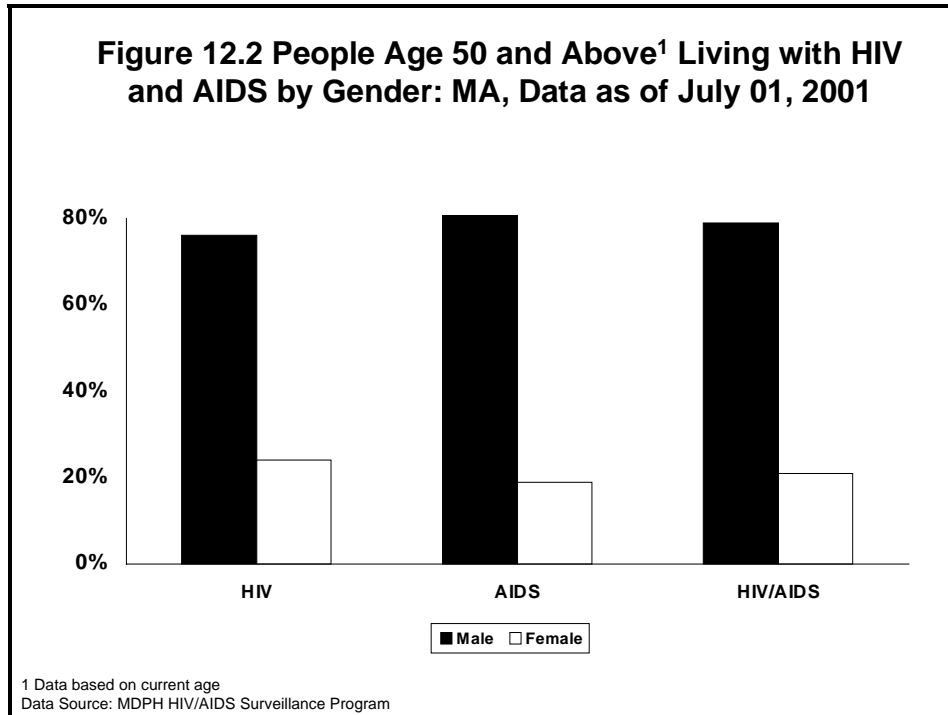


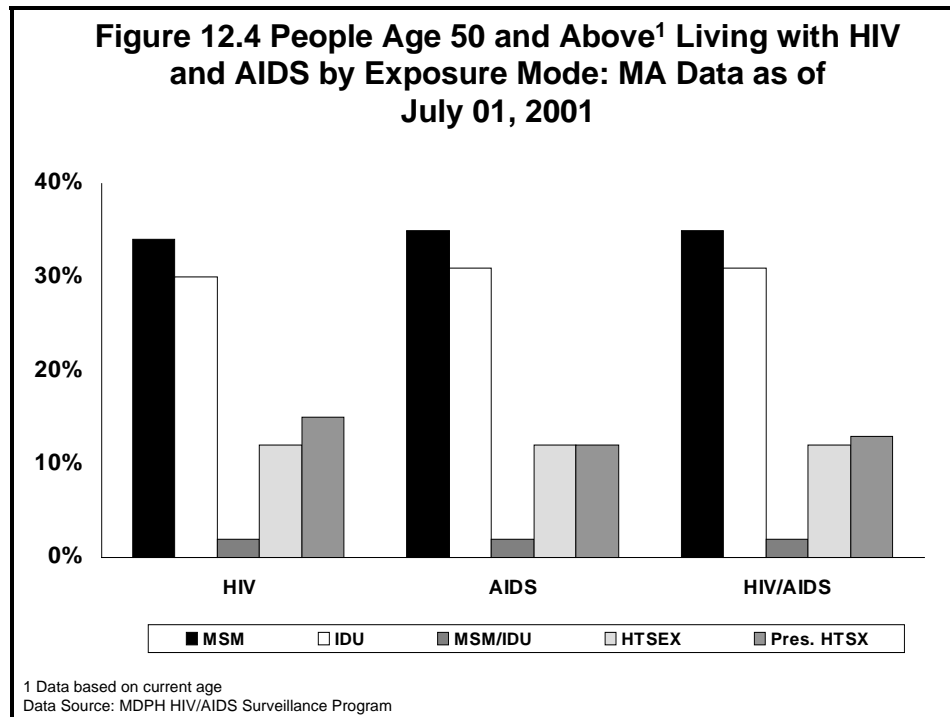
**Table 12.1. People Age 50 and Older<sup>1</sup> Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Exposure Mode: MA***Data as of July 1, 2001*

	HIV		AIDS		HIV/AIDS	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	514	76%	1,072	81%	1,586	79%
Female	165	24%	254	19%	419	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>679</b>		<b>1,326</b>		<b>2,005</b>	
By Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	355	52%	676	51%	1031	51%
Black (non-Hispanic)	189	28%	379	29%	568	28%
Hispanic	122	18%	252	19%	374	19%
Asian / Pacific Islander	4	1%	15	1%	19	1%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	0	0%	1	<1%	1	0%
Unknown	9	1%	3	<1%	12	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>679</b>		<b>1,326</b>		<b>2,005</b>	
By Exposure Mode <sup>2</sup> :	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male Sex with Male (MSM)	231	34%	464	35%	695	35%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	204	30%	411	31%	615	31%
MSM/IDU	14	2%	33	2%	47	2%
Heterosexual Sex	84	12%	159	11%	243	12%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/IDU	33	5%	58	4%	91	5%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/ Person w/ HIV or AIDS	46	7%	94	7%	140	7%
◦ Female Sex w/ Bisexual Male	2	<1%	4	<1%	6	<1%
◦ Other Heterosexual Sex	3	<1%	3	<1%	6	<1%
Presumed Heterosexual	103	15%	159	12%	262	13%
Blood / Blood products	5	1%	25	2%	30	1%
Pediatric	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
No Identified Risk	38	6%	75	6%	113	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>679</b>		<b>1,326</b>		<b>2,005</b>	
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						
1 Based on current age						
2 Refer to the glossary for a description of the exposure mode categories						

- As of July 1, 2001 there are 2,005 people reported living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA who are 50 years old or older, 66 percent have been diagnosed with AIDS.
- The majority (79%) of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who are age 50 or older are men. (See Figure 12.2)
- About half of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who are age 50 and older are White. (See Figure 12.3)

- Roughly one-third of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who are age 50 and older were exposed to HIV through male to male sex and about another third were exposed through injection drug use. (See Figure 12.4)



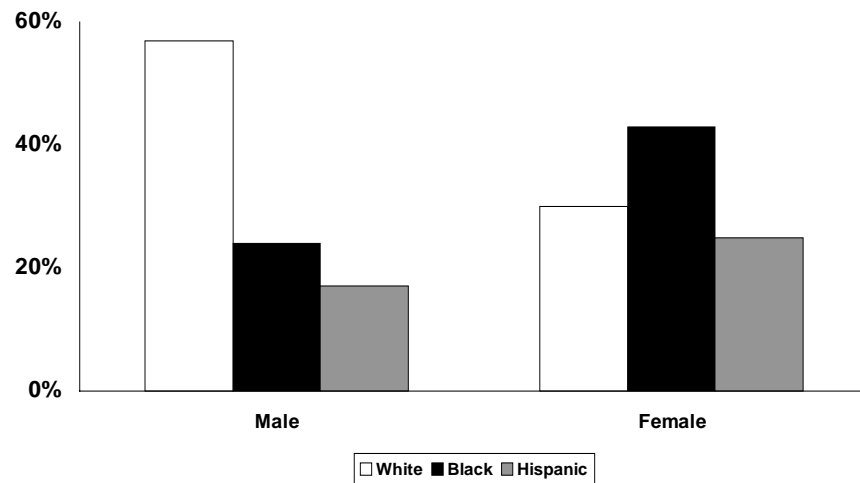


**Table 12.2. People Age 50 and Older<sup>1</sup> Living with HIV Infection and AIDS; Gender by Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode: MA**  
*Data as of July 1, 2001*

	Male		Female	
By Race / Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	904	57%	127	30%
Black (non-Hispanic)	387	24%	181	43%
Hispanic	268	17%	106	25%
Other/Unknown	27	2%	5	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,586</b>		<b>419</b>	
By Exposure Mode <sup>2</sup> :	N	%	N	%
Male Sex with Male (MSM)	695	44%	--	--
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	492	31%	123	29%
MSM/IDU	47	3%	--	--
Heterosexual Sex	87	5%	156	37%
Presumed Heterosexual	153	10%	109	26%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
No Identified Risk	112	7%	31	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,586</b>		<b>419</b>	
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)				
1 Based on current age				
2 Refer to the glossary for a description of the exposure mode categories				
n/a = not applicable				

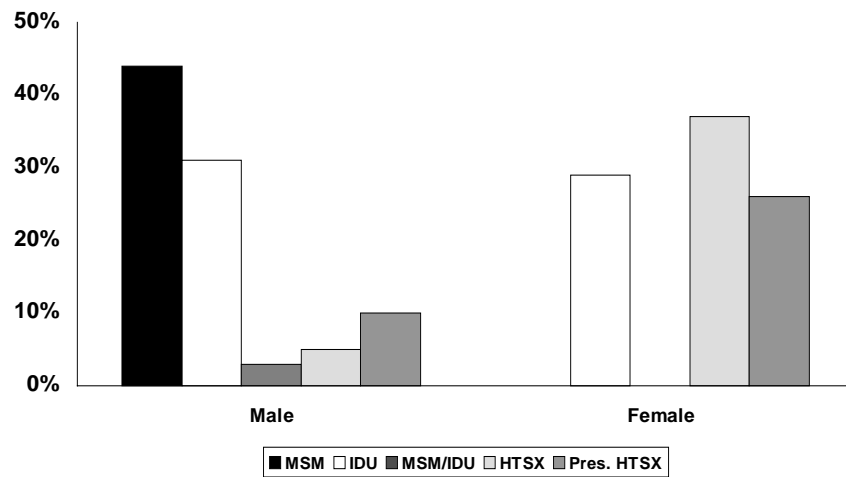
- As of July 1, 2001, there are currently 419 women and 1,586 men who are age 50 and older living with HIV infection/AIDS in Massachusetts.
- Men living with HIV infection/AIDS who are age 50 and older are predominantly White (57%) while the largest proportion of women (43%) is Black. (See Figure 12.5)
- Gender differences in people living with HIV infection/AIDS are also observed in primary reported exposure mode: the largest proportion of men (44%) were exposed through MSM, followed by IDU (31%), whereas the largest group of women (37%) were reported with a primary risk of heterosexual sex, followed by IDU (29%). (See Figure 12.6)

**Figure 12.5 People Age 50 and Above<sup>1</sup> Living with HIV/AIDS;  
Gender by Race/Ethnicity: MA Data as of July 01, 2001**



<sup>1</sup> Data based on current age  
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

**Figure 12.6 People Age 50 and Above<sup>1</sup> Living with HIV/AIDS;  
Gender by Exposure Mode: MA Data as of July 01, 2001**



<sup>1</sup> Data based on current age  
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

## **II. Behavioral Data (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – BRFSS)**

<b>Table 12.3 Number Of Sexual Partners In Past Year, Adults Ages 50 – 64: MA, 2000</b>					
<b>Sex:</b>	<b>0 Partners</b>	<b>1 Partner</b>	<b>2 Partners</b>	<b>3+ Partners</b>	<b>N</b>
Male	18%	71%	4%	5%	414
Female	42%	58%	0%	0%	603
<b>Race:</b>	<b>0 Partners</b>	<b>1 Partner</b>	<b>2 Partners</b>	<b>3+ Partners</b>	<b>N</b>
White	29%	68%	2%	2%	836
Black	41%	51%	1%	7%	54
Hispanic	56%	40%	4%	<1%	105
Asian	-- <sup>1</sup>	-- <sup>1</sup>	-- <sup>1</sup>	-- <sup>1</sup>	9
<b>HIV Test Ever:</b>	<b>0 Partners</b>	<b>1 Partner</b>	<b>2 Partners</b>	<b>3+ Partners</b>	<b>N</b>
Yes	28%	66%	3%	4%	358
No	34%	63%	1%	1%	622
<b>Total:</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,017</b>
<sup>1</sup> insufficient sample size Note: There were too few adults age 50-64 with same sex partners to examine # partners by same vs. opposite sex partner Data Source: Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2000					

- Among 2,232 respondents 50-64 years old, 2% reported 3 or more partners. 2% reported 2 partners, 65% reported 1 partner and 32% reported no sex partners in the past year.
- A larger percent of men reported 3 or more sex partners than women (5%, vs. 0% women reporting).
- Across race/ethnicity, 7% of Black people 50-64 years old reported 3 or more sexual partners compared to 2% of Whites and less than 1% of Hispanics.
- Among those ever testing for HIV, 4% report 3+ partners, 3% report 2 sex partners, and 66% report 1 partner in the past year.



<b>Table 12.4 Sex Of Sexual Partner, Adults Ages 50 – 64<sup>1</sup>:MA, 2000</b>			
<b>Sex of partner:</b>	<b>% Males</b>	<b>% Females</b>	<b>N</b>
Male	3%	97%	329
Female	98%	2%	313
<b>Total</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>642</b>
<sup>1</sup> sexually active in the past year Note: there were too few non- White, sexually active adults age 50-64 to examine race by sex of partner Data Source: Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2000			

- 49% of respondents ages 50-64 report having sex with a man, 51% of respondents ages 50-64 report having sex with a woman.
- Among men ages 50-64, 3% reported sex with a same sex partner, among females 2% reported sex with a same sex partner

<b>Table 12.5 Condom Use At Last Sexual Encounter, Adults Ages 50-64: MA, 2000</b>		
<b>Sex</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>
Male	14%	329
Female	7%	313
<b>Total</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>642</b>
Note: there were too few adults ages 50-64 with > 1 sexual partner, same sex partner, or non- White adults to examine condom use same vs. opp sex partner , # partners. Or race Data Source: Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2000		

- Among 642 sexually active respondents 50-64 years old, 11% reported condom use at last sex.
- Among males 50-64 years old, 14% reported condom use, and among females 7% reported condom use.

**III. Service Utilization - Counseling and Testing Data**

<b>Table 12.6 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests<sup>1</sup> by Gender and Age of Client, and Mode of Exposure for Over 50 Residents: MA, 2000</b>			
HIV Tests by Gender of Client:	<b>TOTAL TESTS</b>	<b>TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS</b>	<b>PERCENT POSITIVE</b>
Male	1,619	26	2%
Female	755	9	1%
Unknown	13	0	0%
HIV Tests by Age of Client:	<b>TOTAL TESTS</b>	<b>TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS</b>	<b>PERCENT POSITIVE</b>
White (not Hispanic)	1,427	12	1%
African American (not Hispanic)	340	6	2%
Hispanic/Latino	449	10	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	18	0	0%
Native American/Alaskan Native	8	0	0%
Haitian	60	4	7% <sup>2</sup>
Brazilian	22	2	9% <sup>2</sup>
Portuguese	17	0	0%
Cape Verdean	23	0	0%
Unknown	23	1	4%
HIV Tests by Mode of Exposure:	<b>TOTAL TESTS</b>	<b>TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS</b>	<b>PERCENT POSITIVE</b>
Male to Male Sex	279	9	3%
Injection Drug use	210	6	3%
Male to Male Sex/Injection Drug Use	5	0	0%
Heterosexual Sex	1,642	17	1%
Other/Unknown	251	3	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,387</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1%</b>
<sup>1</sup> Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table) <sup>2</sup> Caution should be used in interpreting percentages with both a small numerator and denominator. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau Counseling and Testing Program			

- In 2000, almost three times as many men (2,175) than women (767) over fifty years of age received HIV tests at public funded Counseling and Testing (C&T) sites.
- The majority of those tested were White non-Hispanic (1,705) followed by Latinos (548) and African-Americans (406).
- The majority of those tested reported heterosexual risk (1,214) as their mode of exposure followed by male to male sex/injection drug use (381) and injection drug use (273).

**Table 12.7 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests<sup>1</sup> by Year of Test for Over 50 Clients: MA, 1992-2000**

By Year of Test:	Total Tests	Total Positive Results	Percent Positive
1992	1,066	24	2%
1993	1,218	26	2%
1994	1,543	21	1%
1995	1,634	35	2%
1996	1,684	48	3%
1997	1,706	34	2%
1998	1,799	28	2%
1999	1,980	32	2%
2000	2,387	35	1%

1 Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table)  
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau Counseling and Testing Program

- The number of individuals age 50 years and over who were tested at publicly funded C&T sites increased by 1,321 from 1992 through 2000.
- The percent of these individuals testing positive has fluctuated between one and three percent from 1992 through 2000 and is currently at one percent.

